

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-18, 20, 21, 23-26 are pending. An Office Action mailed October 13, 2004, objected to Claims 1, 3, 13-18, and 23-26, and rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Claims 2-11, 20, 21, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. By way of this Amendment, Applicant hereby amends Claims 1, 3, 5, 13, 23, and 26 and cancels Claim 4. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.111, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Office Action objected to Claims 1, 3, 13-18, and 23-26 for various informalities. Applicant hereby amends Claims 1, 3, 13, 23, and 26 in order to overcome the noted objections. Applicant now requests that Claims 13-18 and 23-26 be treated on the merits.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 1 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected Claim 1 as being anticipated by Pugliese, III. The Office Action states that Pugliese, III discloses a method for checking a passenger and baggage into an airline flight comprising instructing the passenger to obtain a boarding pass at a first location, providing the passenger with a boarding pass, the boarding pass containing information associated with the passenger, and instructing the passenger to present the boarding pass, and checking the baggage in accordance with information obtained from the boarding pass. With regard to amended independent Claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of Claim 4, wherein the information obtained from the boarding pass comprises a destination and number of bags to be checked. Applicant submits that Pugliese, III fails to teach that the information gleaned from the boarding pass also includes the number of bags that are to be checked. Pugliese, III discloses that the passenger record not the boarding pass includes a field for storing flight information, including the flight number, the destination, the time and day of departure, the arrival time, the names of accompanying passengers, the seat or seats assigned, a personal profile of the

individual passenger, including his or her name, telephone number, current address, typical type of travel, any special needs, special handling that may be required by this passenger, the passenger's frequent flyer record, and the last flight by the passenger on the particular airline (col. 10, lines 20-45). The Applicant submits that Pugliese, III does not suggest checking baggage in accordance with an indication of a number of bags to be checked that is included within the boarding pass, because it is of no concern when using their automatic baggage check-in machines (ABM). In fact, Applicant submits that Pugliese, III indicates that the ABM actually requests the number of bags information from the passenger because it did not obtain that information from the boarding pass. Pugliese, III explains that the machine will...request that the passenger input the number of bags to be checked for the destination specified in the reservation (col. 4, lines 16-34).

Therefore, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is allowable over Pugliese, III.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 2-11 as being unpatentable over Pugliese, III in view of Barclay. The Office Action states that Barclay teaches the information contained in the boarding pass is in barcode form. The Office Action further states that it would have been obvious to an artist of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Barclay into the system as taught by Pugliese, III, in order to provide Pugliese, III with a less time-consuming system in which the passenger's information can be retrieved readily upon scanning the barcode. With regard to the amendment made above to Claim 1 and the dependent relationship of Claims 2-9, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Barclay fails to teach or suggest that information obtained from the boarding pass comprises number of bags to be checked. Therefore, because Claims 2, 3, and

5-9 depend from allowable independent Claim 1, they are allowable for the same reasons that make Claim 1 allowable.

With regard to independent Claim 10, the Office Action states that Pugliese, III fails to teach or suggest that the processor allows baggage to be checked into the flight at the baggage drop station only if the passenger has already checked in. The Office Action further states that Barclay teaches a baggage drop computer that performs a comparison between the scan data from a boarding pass/baggage tag with a list of checked in passengers, and the baggage handler does not load a piece of baggage unless its corresponding passenger identifier is listed. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to incorporate the teachings of Barclay into the system as taught by Pugliese, III. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Barclay discloses a baggage handler does not load a piece of baggage onto the aircraft unless the corresponding passenger is listed in the passenger manifest (col. 5, lines 9-13). The passenger manifest 48 is the list of passenger identifiers for boarded passengers (col. 4, lines 64-67). Thus, Applicant submits that loading of baggage into an aircraft does not occur until the passenger has actually boarded the aircraft. Thus, Applicant submits that Barclay fails to teach or suggest allowing baggage to be checked into the flight at the baggage drop station only if the passenger has already checked in. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent Claim 10 is allowable. Because Claim 11 and 13-18 depend from independent Claim 10, they are allowable for the same reasons that make Claim 10 allowable.

The Office Action rejected Claims 20, 21, and 23-26 as being unpatentable over Yamazaki as modified by Pugliese, III in view of Barclay and further in view of Ross. The Office Action states that Ross teaches when a passenger arrives at the airport, they are directed by appropriate signs to a passenger information Kiosk and that it would have been obvious to incorporate the teachings of Ross under the systems taught by Pugliese, III and Barclay. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that neither Pugliese, III (as described above with respect to Claim 1), Barclay, or Ross teach or suggest, alone or in combination, that the information gleaned from the boarding pass also includes the number of bags that are to be checked. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Because Claims 21 and 23-26 depend from allowable independent Claim 20, they are allowable for the same reasons that make their corresponding independent claim allowable.

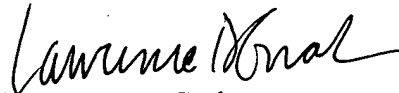
CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the pending application are now in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the examiner has any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}

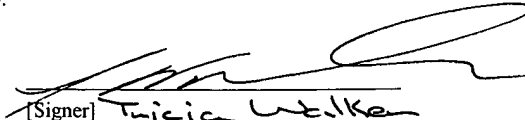


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MAIL CERTIFICATE

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[Signer] Tricia Wilken